

REMARKS

Claims 39-84 were previously presented. The Examiner withdrew claims 39-49 from consideration. Claims 39-49, 61, 69, 74, 78, and 81 have been amended. New claims 85 and 86 have been added. Claims 40-49 have been amended to depend from claim 85, and ultimately from claim 81. Rejoinder of these claims is respectfully requested. Claims 61, 69, and 81 were amended, replacing the “if” recitation by a “responsive to” for improved clarity. Claim 74 was amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 78 was amended to depend from claim 85, to help insure the continued consideration of claims 78 and 79 on the merits. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure and do not add new matter.

The Office Action imposed a species restriction requirement between species Group I corresponding to Figure 15, Group II corresponding to Figure 16, Group III corresponding to Figure 7A and Group IV corresponding to Figure 18. While acknowledging that two successive restriction requirements are allowed by the Office’s rules, Applicant respectfully notes that this is the second restriction requirement imposed without an action on the merits and respectfully requests an action on the merits. To preserve Applicant’s rights to petition, and to insure a compliant and proper response, Applicant traverses the species restriction requirement of the present Office Action. In particular, there are embodiments in each of the groups defined in the Office Action which also are contained in each of the other groups. Accordingly, the groups are not believed to be separate and distinct species, and therefore the species restriction requirement is believed to be impossible to respond to properly and completely.

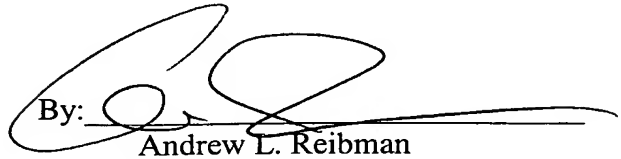
Nevertheless, in good faith, the Applicant has attempted to respond to the species election requirement imposed by the Office Action by electing Group IV. At least claim 81 is believed to encompass Group IV. Claim 69 is believed to encompass some embodiments of Group IV where the consumables are lottery tickets which are activated as part of being dispensed. All of the other claims currently under consideration, 50-80 and 82-84 encompass at least some embodiments found in Group IV. New claims 85 and 86 also encompass at least some embodiments found in Group IV.

All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to have been addressed. Consideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this

application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (212) 908-6486.

Respectfully submitted,

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